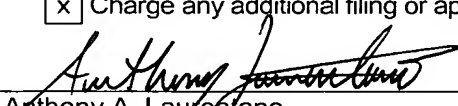


12-15-05

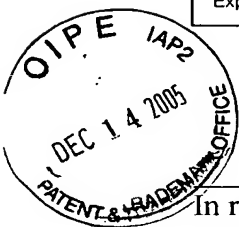
1FW

AMENDMENT TRANSMITTAL LETTER				Docket No. TOW-060	
Application No. 10/758500-Conf. #5992		Filing Date January 14, 2004		Examiner M. Aboagye	
				Art Unit 1725	
Applicant(s): Hideo NAKAMURA <i>et al.</i>					
Invention: METHOD OF AND APPARATUS FOR FRICTION STIR WELDING					
TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS					
Transmitted herewith is an amendment in the above-identified application.					
The fee has been calculated and is transmitted as shown below.					
CLAIMS AS AMENDED					
	Claims Remaining After Amendment	Highest Number Previously Paid	Number Extra Claims Present	Rate	
Total Claims	24	- 26 =		x	
Independent Claims	4	- 4 =		x	
Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/>					
Other fee (please specify):					
TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THIS AMENDMENT:					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Large Entity <input type="checkbox"/> Small Entity					
<input type="checkbox"/> No additional fee is required for this amendment.					
<input type="checkbox"/> Please charge Deposit Account No. <u>12-0080</u> in the amount of \$ _____ A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.					
<input type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the filing fee is enclosed.					
<input type="checkbox"/> Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Director is hereby authorized to charge and credit Deposit Account No. <u>12-0080</u> as described below. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Credit any overpayment.					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Charge any additional filing or application processing fees required under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17.					
 Anthony A. Laurentano Attorney Reg. No.: 38,220				Dated: <u>December 14, 2005</u>	
LAHIVE & COCKFIELD, LLP 28 State Street Boston, Massachusetts 02109 (617) 227-7400					
Express Mail Label No. EV 418603081 US Dated: December 14, 2005					

Express Mail Label No. EV 418603081 US

Dated: December 14, 2005

Docket No.: TOW-060
(PATENT)



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Hideo Nakamura *et al.*

Application No.: 10/758500

Confirmation No.: 5992

Filed: January 14, 2004

Art Unit: 1725

For: METHOD OF AND APPARATUS FOR
FRICTION STIR WELDING

Examiner: M. Aboagye

AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION

MS Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

In response to the Office Action dated September 14, 2005, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Drawings begin on page 10 of this paper and include both an attached replacement sheet and an annotated sheet showing changes.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 11 of this paper.

An **Appendix** including amended drawing figures is attached following page 16 of this paper.